

23 JAN 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Research and Development

SUBJECT : FBIS Machine Translation Seminar

1. As the CIA office most concerned with the translation of foreign material, FBIS has identified as a 1976 Office objective the following:

"To develop recommendations, by the end of FY 1976, on the applicability of machine translation systems to Agency needs based on the results of a seminar to be sponsored by FBIS that will focus on systems capabilities and will include experts drawn from government, industry, and the academic world."

2. The seminar now is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Inn in Rosslyn on 8-9 March. It is expected to bring together individuals and organizations having experience in the design and use of machine translation systems, private and government individuals capable of evaluating both the theoretical and practical aspects of such systems, as well as potential users.

3. We expect the seminar to provide a basis for evaluating and comparing different systems from the standpoint of demonstrated capabilities and quoted costs, information on existing and potential systems, and sufficient information to reach conclusions regarding the applicability of machine translation or areas for additional study and investment in order to meet the translation needs of the Agency and FBIS in particular.

4. The seminar agenda has been developed in informal consultation with Agency components concerned with various aspects of machine translation. It will be provided you as soon as acceptances have been confirmed by invited speakers. At that time we will solicit attendance by you or your representatives. On the subject of machine translation we have been in contact with [redacted] of your Office. Questions regarding this seminar should be directed to [redacted] Chief, Production Group, FBIS.

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Foreign Broadcast Information Service